



CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

Acting on behalf of the National Ocean Research Leadership Council through the National Ocean Council (Council) and in accordance with the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (the Act), the Interagency Ocean Observations Committee (IOOC) is hereby established by the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) of the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability.

B. Purpose, Scope, and Goals

The purpose of the IOOC is to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the SOST on matters related to ocean observations, and specifically with respect to the Act to:

1. Coordinate the interagency planning, budgeting, and assessment functions required under the Act;
2. Promote collaboration among Federal agencies and with non-Federal components, other domestic and international ocean observation programs, and other interested groups;
3. Support the Council in its coordination and oversight responsibilities with respect to ocean observations, as identified in the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009; and
4. Advance efforts related to ocean observations under the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (National Ocean Policy, Executive Order 13547).

The IOOC will implement these actions utilizing existing structures to the fullest extent possible.

Specific to the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), the goals of the IOOC are:

1. To enhance the efficiency of and motivation for multiple-agency contributions to the IOOS, for the purposes of societal applications, education, stewardship, and scientific understanding;
2. To strengthen the interface between the Federal aspects of IOOS and those performed by state, local and tribal governments, the private sector and academia; and
3. To be fully complementary to and consistent with the activities of the Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office; the focus of the IOOC is on IOOS planning, policy, and coordination, and on interagency budgetary activities subject to the oversight of the

Council. The focus of the Program Office is IOOS implementation, in accordance with the design intent of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009.

C. Functions

The Act establishes the following functions for the IOOC:

1. Prepare annual and long-term plans for consideration and approval by the Council for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the System to meet the objectives of the Act and the System Plan;
2. Develop and transmit to Congress at the time of submission of the President's annual budget request an annual coordinated, comprehensive budget to operate all elements of the System set forth in the Act, and to ensure continuity of data streams from Federal and non-Federal assets;
3. Establish required observation data variables to be gathered by both Federal and non-Federal assets and identify, in consultation with regional information coordination entities, priorities for System observations;
4. Establish protocols and standards for System data processing, management, and communication;
5. Develop contract certification standards and compliance procedures for all non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to establish eligibility for integration into the System and to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council, and ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis;
6. Identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;
7. Subject to the availability of funding, establish through one or more participating Federal agencies, in consultation with the System Advisory Committee established under the Act, a competitive matching grant or other programs:
 - to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and
 - to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment.¹
8. Periodically review and recommend to the Council, in consultation with the Administrator, revisions to the System plan;
9. Encourage collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the activities of the IOOC; and
10. Perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.

¹ It is expected that such intramural funding would use existing mechanisms, such as the NOPP process, rather than establishing new processes and bureaucracies.

Additionally, to support interagency collaboration on ocean observations, the IOOC will:

1. Provide guidance, promote agency participation, and approve working documents for the IOOC support staff;
2. Establish and oversee IOOC task forces, as necessary, and obtain advice from the System Advisory Committee;
3. Facilitate the use of ocean observations in education and outreach to improve public awareness of global climate change and effects on the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environment, in collaboration with other appropriate Federal groups; and
4. Implement or ensure implementation of activities related to ocean observations under the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

The IOOC will collaborate strongly with non-Federal and Federal subject-matter experts. The IOOC will meet at least quarterly. Budget cross-cuts and related information will be prepared in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget, and plans to expand the System and address gaps in coverage will be prioritized in cognizance of agency missions and funding levels. The IOOC will provide this information and the reports called for in the Act to the SOST.

D. Membership

All SOST member agencies, including ex-officio members, may be represented on the IOOC. Agencies that do not substantially deploy or use ocean observations, data, or models may be assigned non-voting "observer" status. The work of the IOOC may be delegated to task forces of subject matter experts.

The IOOC will be led by three co-chairs from different agencies selected by the IOOC members and approved by the SOST Co-chairs acting on behalf of the Council. Co-chairs will not represent their agencies.

The IOOC will be supported by a dedicated staff who will respond to the day-to-day programmatic requirements of the IOOC. The cost for operating the IOOC will be shared among the voting agency participants at levels commensurate with their involvement.

E. Private Sector Interface

The IOOC may solicit and receive ad hoc advice and information from non-Federal entities, including the System Advisory Committee established by the Act as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Ocean Research Advisory Panel and its sub-committees may provide input and information exchange, in accordance with Department of Defense and Council procedures.

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-Chairs of the SOST prior to its expiration, the IOOC shall terminate no later than December 31, 2015.

G. Determination

We hereby determine that the formation of the Interagency Ocean Observations Committee is in the public interest in connection with the performance and duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved




David Conover, NSF, SOST Co-Chair

2/13/13
Date



Robert Detrick, NOAA, SOST-Co-Chair

2/13/13
Date



Brendan Kelly, OSTP, SOST Co-Chair

2/13/2013
Date